

Noel Petrie

5325 Stonington Dr.
Fairfax, Va. 22032

Home Phone (703) 764-8881

9161 '99 JUL 13 A11:13 July 08, 1999

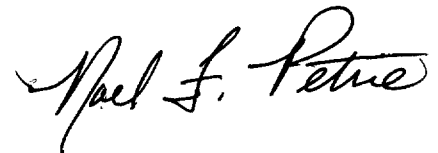
William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
Re: Docket No. 98N-1038
"Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated food. Any foods that have been treated with irradiation, including those which contain irradiated ingredients, should be clearly labeled as such. The label should be placed in close proximity to the name of the food on the principle display panel. In addition, it should be accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

Like other labels, irradiated labels are required by the FDA to be truthful and not misleading. I believe the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained. Any phrase involving the word "pasteurization" is misleading because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling. I recognize radura as information regarding a material fact of food processing. The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not expire at any time in the future. Doing away with either of these is unfair to new consumers (i.e., young people, immigrants) who may not be familiar with the radura. If there is no label, or if labels are misleading, consumers can not choose whether they wish to buy and consume irradiated food.

Sincerely,

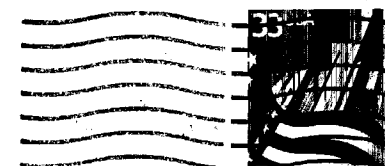


Noel Petrie

98N 1038

C3421

Noel F. Petrie
5325 Stonington Dr.
Fairfax, Va. 22032



William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20852

00857/0001 11111111111111111111111111111111